

Revised Goals and Objectives: FINAL DRAFT (2F)

The following is a final draft of the Revised Goals and Objectives. Revisions are based on Phase I input, October 20, 2011 public workshop, and Acton 2020 Committee input (written and based on discussion at January 13, 2011 and January 26, 2011 Committee meetings). Significant effort was made by both the Committee and Consultant to preserve the intent, meaning, and spirit of all input received.

STILL TO DO... *Once Sue Benson and Jim Snyder-Grant provide their edits, the goals and objectives will be ready for posting on the web site.*

NEXT STEPS... *The next step will be for us to begin evaluating the strategies associated with the objectives (compiled from public input, Committee, Town Staff and the Consultant Team). The strategies will be presented to the Committee for review in approximately two weeks.*

GOAL 1: Preserve Town Character

We feel strongly about preserving and enhancing what makes Acton special and unique, including its rural characteristics, historic buildings and landscapes, and its village centers.

Objective 1.1: Preserve rural characteristics and open space

Objective 1.2: Preserve historic buildings and landscapes

Objective 1.3: Foster an understanding and appreciation for what makes Acton unique, including its history.

Objective 1.4: Preserve and enhance village centers

GOAL 2: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

As Acton residents, we recognize that our health and well-being depend on protecting the web of life of which we are a part. Therefore, it is vital that we live and work here in a manner that supports that web and the well-being of people everywhere, including future Acton citizens.

Objective 2.1: To protect the quality and quantity of the water that cycles through our ground water, surface water, drinking water, waste water, and storm water systems, and to ensure that future development fits within the constraints of these in our local water cycles.

Objective 2.2: To move toward a material economy in which there is no waste or accumulation of every manufactured object becomes, at the end of its useful life, part of another sustainable product or process, without accumulating toxins in the environment.

Objective 2.3: To reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal uses.

Objective 2.4: To move toward patterns of land use and land protection that support broad biodiversity, soil preservation, and healthy local agriculture.

GOAL 3: Improve Connections

We recognize that a community that is connected is safer, stronger, and provides more opportunities for meaningful interaction. We envision supporting these connections through physical means including sidewalks, bike paths, trails and public transportation to connect people and places, and to support independent and safe travel for all. We also envision open communication as a means to further connect residents (e.g. through the web, cable TV, community bulletin boards, etc.).

Objective 3.1: Improve walking and biking experience

Objective 3.2: Improve circulation around town

Objective 3.3: Promote communication amongst town government, citizens, schools, and the business community.

Objective 3.4: Support and strengthen neighborhoods

GOAL 4: Provide More Opportunities for Community Gathering and Recreation

We value the small town feeling and appreciate the sense of community that results from frequent opportunities for interaction. We support providing places for casual social interaction and organized events that bring members of the community together. We believe in offering opportunities for intergenerational experiences and for sharing of inter-cultural celebration, and we aim to provide recreational opportunities for all ages.

Objective 4.1: Provide a community facility large enough to accommodate a variety of uses and a wide range of programming

Objective 4.2: Maintain and improve existing gathering spaces and look for opportunities to create informal gathering spaces.

Objective 4.3: Support additional cultural activities

Objective 4.4: Maintain and increase recreational opportunities

GOAL 5: Support Inclusion and Diversity

We value our diversity in all its forms, reflecting a range of ages and socio-economic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. We wish to foster respect, promote interaction and actively encourage a wide variety of individuals to live, work, and play in our community.

Objective 5.1: Support all ages

Objective 5.2: Support households of all income levels

Objective 5.3: Embrace cultural diversity

Objective 5.4: Support citizens with disabilities in participating fully in the life of the community

GOAL 6: Preserve and Enhance Town-owned Assets

We value our Town assets and wish to preserve and enhance them. These include our open spaces, schools, municipal properties and facilities.

Objective 6.1: Protect Town-owned open space

Objective 6.2: Support excellence in schools

Objective 6.3: Maintain municipal properties and facilities

GOAL 7: Maintain and Improve Financial Well-being of the Town

We value our Town's future and as such, it's critical for us to sustain and strengthen its financial well-being. This includes building commercial and economic development plans that reflect the long-term goals of both businesses and residents of the community.

Objective 7.1: Improve existing commercial areas

Objective 7.2: Promote economic development that supports our other goals

Objective 7.3: Achieve a balance of services and taxes

Objective 7.4: Support the ability of all residents to stay in Acton for a lifetime